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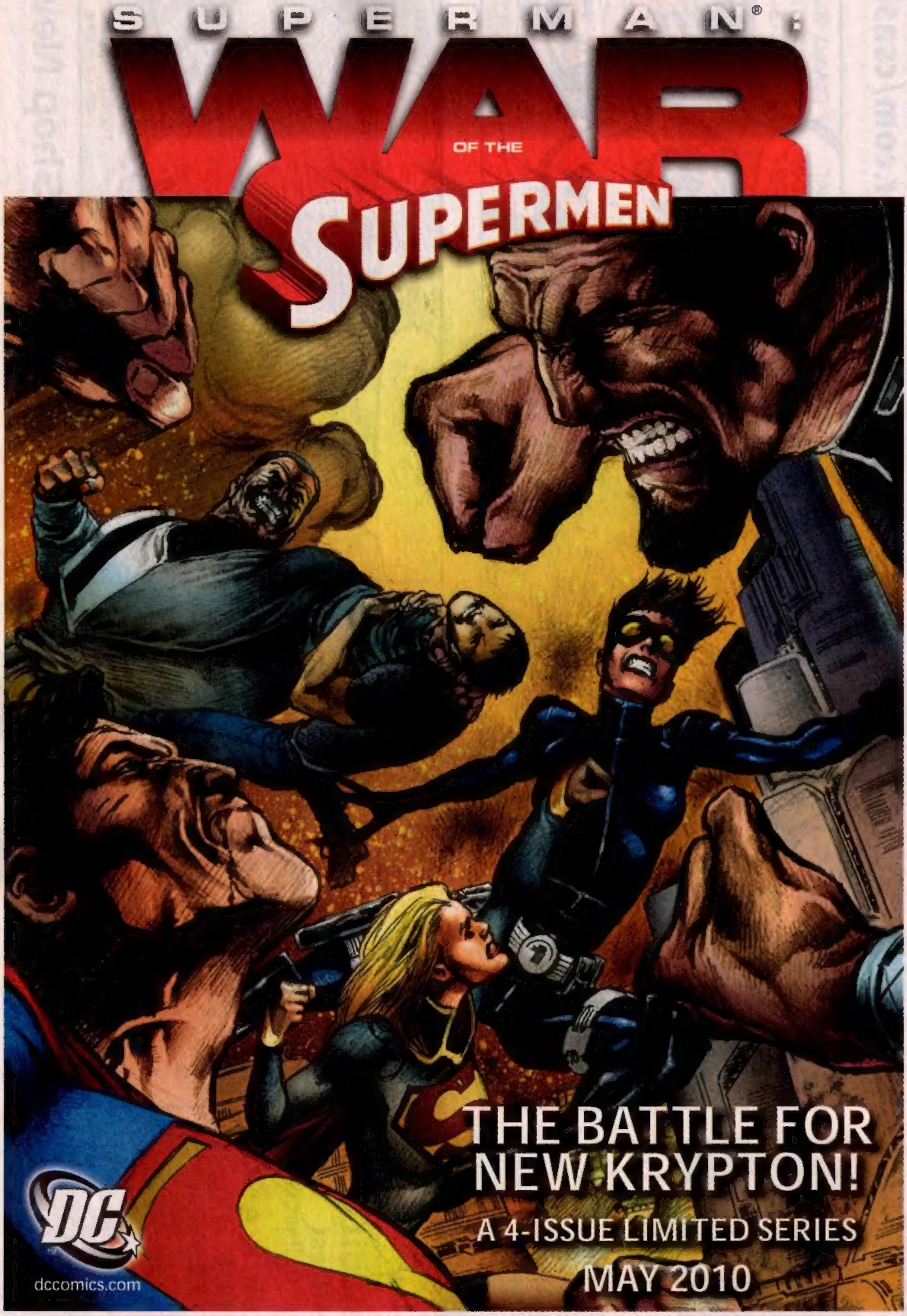
COMIC SHOP NEWS

Amazing Spider-Man Presents
American Son



Written by **JAMES ROBINSON** and **STERLING GATES** Art by **EDDY BARROWS**
DON KRAMER, JAMAL IGLE and **EDUARDO PANSICA**

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In the aftermath of the "American Son" five-parter in ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 595-599***, it appeared that Harry Osborn had given up the armored identity created for him by his father. But if he did, then who's playing the superhero role in the American Son armor created by Norman Osborn for his son—and for that matter, why is American Son back at all?

"Those are the very questions everyone in the story is asking," writer *Brian Reed* said. Those questions—and their surprising answers—are the subject of ***Amazing Spider-Man Presents American Son,*** a four-issue miniseries written by Reed and illustrated by *Philip Briones*.

"***American Son*** focuses on where Harry Osborn is now in his life," Reed said. "He's in kind of a bad place after the events of 'American Son' in ***Amazing Spider-Man***. Harry's the focus of all the paparazzi in New York. Everything that happens with Norman Osborn at the end of ***Siege*** means every reporter on planet Earth wants him to say something about the fall of Norman Osborn, Lily's pregnancy, what relationship (if any) that he has with Mary Jane--he's in the center of a huge political and romantic scandal all at once, and all he wants is to be left alone to run his shop, but he's being hounded night and die.

"He's got no money left. He's sharing an apartment. MJ thinks he might be relapsing with his drug habit—and she's right. Peter Parker is worried Harry might be playing super hero (and the truth of that situation will shake Spidey's world). It's safe to say that things have gone from bad to worse after ***Siege***.

"In the middle of all this, he's got an FBI agent who shows up at the Coffee Bean and says, 'I know what you're doing.' And Harry says, 'What do you mean? What do you know I'm doing?' And the agent says, 'I know you stole the American Son armor out of Norman's lab.'"

What is obvious is that *someone* has stolen the American Son armor, and whomever he is, the new American son isn't being very secretive. "He's being a hero," Reed said. "A bit sloppy and slightly too rough with the bad guys, but a hero all the same.

"That's what begins our story. The American Son armor has been stolen and it's being used. Harry's denying it like crazy, but we're seeing all kinds of signs that Harry might be moonlighting as a superhero. And it could be him. But even if it's not him, *someone* is in the American Son armor, and we don't know whether or not it's Harry Osborn."

Does Harry even have what it takes to be a hero? "I think so," Reed said. "He wants very much to show the world he's *not* his father. The nice thing about that goal is that it can backfire on you quite easily."

How does Spider-Man become involved in all this? "When Harry is wearing this armor and trying to do the superhero thing—or at least everybody thinks he is—Peter, being a friend, puts on the Spider-Man suit and goes to Harry to say, 'Look, you need to knock this off,'" Reed explained.

"Peter doesn't like it at all. From where he's sitting, he's seeing a friend with a troubled family history making one more mistake in a very long line of mistakes. This worries him because Peter sees Harry as a friend—someone he cares about and loves like a family member. I think Harry's the closest thing to a brother Peter Parker has got."

Reed sees Harry Norman as an important figure in Peter Parker's world. "He exists not only for Peter to hang out with, but also for Spidey to use as a means to keep tabs on Norman. He so wonderfully straddles that line between Peter Parker and Spider-Man--between friend and resource tool, that I'm not sure Peter even appreciates how integral to his life Harry has become."

Harry's life, however, is a mess in the aftermath of ***Siege.*** "Harry's had his entire world taken away from him. He's always been the rich kid. Even though he stood up repeatedly to his dad and said, 'I don't need you, Dad!' and 'I'm walking away from you,' he never really has. He's always had Dad's bank account, if nothing else.

"Now that he's really started taking a stand, he's in a really messy place. He's popping Oxycontin all the time, he's got nothing to his name aside from the Coffee Bean itself. And that's part of what this series is about. It's helping him figure that out."

Reed sees ***American Son*** is a story that complements what's going on in ***Amazing Spider-Man,*** featuring key members of the Spidey cast. "While you don't have to be reading ***Amazing Spider-Man*** to understand ***American Son,*** it *does* tie into the main series while also operating as a mini-Spidey event. It's got some darkness to it, but it's not overall a dark book. I pitched it to [Spider-Man editor *Steve] Wacker* as being sort of a fourth-week ***Amazing Spider-Man***—only this one stars Harry Osborn.

"We'll also see Mary Jane. We'll see Gabriel Stacy get involved. And of course, we'll see Spidey and Pete. I'm writing a Spider-Man tie-in that actually has Spider-Man in it!"

Reed is quite happy to be writing Spidey projects like this and the recent ***Jackpot*** series. "Spider-Man was what I spent all my allowance on as a kid. It's why I wanted to write comics, was to write Spider-Man. I got into writing Spider-Man when I was co-writing the ***Ultimate Spider-Man*** videogame, and that was my doorway into Marvel. I love writing this character. My favorite part of writing Spider-Man is when I get emails from readers saying, 'Why aren't you writing Spider-Man full time?' And I think, 'Yay! I did my job right!'"

Let's keep our fingers crossed that this project paves the way for Reed's promotion to the ***Amazing Spider-Man*** writing team in the near future—but until that happens, we can all enjoy his take on Spidey in this May-premiering miniseries.

Amazing Spider-Man Presents American Son #1, a $3.99 comic, is scheduled for May 12th release.

by Cliff Biggers (with Vaneta Rogers)

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Dick Giordano Passes

A comics legend left us on March 27th when penciller, inker, editor, and one-time DC Vice President *Dick Giordano* died at the age of 77. Giordano's comics career spanned more than a half-century, dating back to 1951. While many fans know him through his work at DC comics, the multi-talented Giordano first made his mark on comics at Charlton, a publisher of war, horror, suspense, romance, and hot rod comics that finally found success in the superhero market under Giordano's editorial direction. Giordano guided the launch of such Charlton stalwarts as Peacemaker, Blue Beetle, the Question, and a revamped Captain Atom, working with such talented creators as *Steve Ditko, Pat Boyette,* and *Jim Aparo*.

In 1967, DC enlisted Giordano to join them as an artist and an editor; he immediately helped to revamp such DC series as *Aquaman,* while his role as an inker of such acclaimed series as *Green Lantern/Green Arrow* (which united him with *Neal Adams)* established him as one of the field's pre-eminent inkers.

Giordano left DC in 1971, but he and Adams continued to work together, launching Continuity Associates during the 1970s . He returned to DC in 1980 in an editorial capacity, and continued as the company's vice president/executive editor into the 1970s, during which time DC launches such major projects as ***Crisis on Infinite Earths, The Dark Knight Returns, Camelot 3000, The Watchmen,*** and the *John Byrne* revamp of ***Superman.***

After his departure from DC, Giordano remained active in comics, and even launched Future Comics with *Bob Layton* and *David Michelinie.*

"*Dick Giordano* was an inspiration for me when I first joined DC Comics," said DC co-publisher *Dan DiDio*. "He was an innovator and an industry leader as both a creator and a creative executive. He was truly one of the greats in the business."'

"*Dick Giordano* has left a lasting legacy as a comic book artist and as a DC Comics executive," said *Diane Nelson*, President, DC Entertainment. "I join the industry in recognizing his tremendous contribution to DC Comics and send my sympathy to his family and friends."

"When I was just trying to break into comics back in 1986, I received a lot of form rejection letters, including a very gracious one from Dick at DC Comics," DC co-publisher *Jim Lee* said. "On the DC letterhead, he took the time to pen an additional personal note which I still cherish today. 'Looking good–keep working at it.' Those few words kept this often dejected young artist hanging in there as it took many more submissions before I finally broke into comics."

"I didn't know *Dick Giordano* personally, but I knew and admired his work and I was lucky enough to have him illustrate one of the first scripts I ever wrote — a one shot titled ***Silver Age: Showcase #1*** back in 2000," said *Geoff Johns*, Chief Creative Officer. "It was an absolute privilege to briefly cross paths with such an immense talent and such an important part of the DC legacy. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends and fellow fans."

Giordano's love of comics, as well as his influence on the medium, is highlighted in the career-spanning ***Dick Giordano: Changing Comics One Day at a Time,*** a Two Morrows release produced by Giordano and *Michael Eury* that celebrates his life and his career that features extensive commentary from Giordano himself.

Those of us who were lucky enough to meet and interact with Giordano will always remember him as an articulate, considerate, and insightful man who was willing to talk comics with professionals, retailers, and fans alike.

The Spotlight Returns to Dark Knight

Remember *Frank Miller & Jim Lee's* ***All Star Batman & Robin, The Boy Wonder?*** The series (which generated buzz and controversy because of its irreverent portrayal of the DCU's most iconic heroes) began as a monthly, but soon fell behind schedule as months passed between issues—and it's more than a year and a half since the tenth issue appeared, with #11 nowhere in sight.

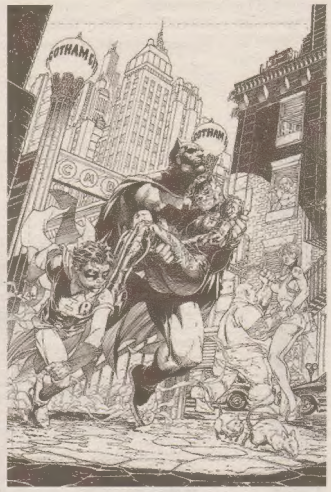
Well, it appears that there was a reason for the differences in characterization: these stories weren't set in the DCU at all, but in another corner of the multiverse!

Lee recently announced that ***All Star Batman & Robin*** has officially ceased publication—but the story is going to continue in 2011 in a new series. "The first chapter of the story of how Batman and Robin came to be has been told in issues 1-10 of ***All Star Batman & Robin,***" Lee said on the DC blog ***The Source***. "*Frank [Miller]* and I sat down just recently to have a long talk about how best to finish this very 'deadline challenged' project and give the loyal fans the second part of this epic storyline they have been patiently waiting for. Moreover, we wanted fans to know that this story is part of the overall Batman mythos and ***Dark Knight Returns*** universe which Frank started back in 1986."

Out of this meeting came the decision to rebrand the series ***Dark Knight: Boy Wonder,*** clearly establishing its link to Miller's ***Dark Knight Returns*** and ***Dark Knight Strikes Again.***

Furthermore, Lee and Miller agreed on a timetable to get the final six issues into comic shops in a reasonable time frame. The result? The first issue of ***Dark Knight: Boy Wonder*** will reach comic shops in February 2011, with the remaining six issues shipping on time every month thereafter.

"I feel terrible about how late the book fell behind," Lee explained. "100 percent of the blame falls upon my shoulders, so one of the reasons we chose the February, 2011, start date was to ensure that ***Dark Knight: Boy Wonder*** would ship regularly and on-time. There are a number of reasons for its incredible delay—but rather than focus on what cannot be changed, I want to promise fans that they will see cool snippets and exclusive previews... in the coming months to whet their appetites for the next chapter of the story of the Dark Knight and Robin, the Boy Wonder."



True Blood To Branch into Comics Circulation

A couple of weeks ago, *CSN* told you about Dynamite Entertainment's upcoming ***Grave Sight*** comic book series based on *Charlaine Harris's* Harper Connelly novels. That left many people wondering what was happening with Harris's most high-profile creation: ***True Blood,*** the series of Sookie Stackhouse novels that has become a television hit for HBO.

It appears that ***True Blood*** is coming to comics later this year, courtesy of IDW, who has formed a new partnership with HBO. Their comic books will be based on the show rather than the novels, and members of the show's creative team will be involved in the comics.

"***True Blood*** is one of the most exciting dramas on television and has been eagerly anticipated by comics fans for along time," said IDW CEO *Ted Adams*. "We are very excited to bring more of this great entertainment franchise to fans."

According to IDW, "the plot was developed with [***True Blood*** series creator/producer *Alan] Ball*, along with series writers *Elisabeth Finch* and *Kate Barnow*, and co-written by *David Tischman* and *Mariah Huehner*. Beautifully illustrated by top

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY, HONEY. HOW ABOUT A WALK?
SOUNDS GREAT!
WILL YOU WEAR YOUR COSTUME UNDER YOUR STREET CLOTHES?
NOPE. I MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO BECOME SPIDER-MAN.
BUT I'LL BRING MY CAMERA, JUST IN CASE.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-15
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tier artist *David Messina*, the series captures all the bloody details and sexy reveals of this exciting new adventure. Renowned artist *J. Scott Campbell* will join Messina in providing covers for each issue."

"I am very excited to be introducing the ***True Blood*** comic book series," Ball said. "These graphic novels are a great companion to the series, and we are pleased that the popularity of the show is allowing it to branch out into different media."

All the series' core characters—including telepathic heroine Sookie Stackhouse, her vampire lover Bill Compton, best friend Tara Thornton, enigmatic and ancient vampire sheriff Eric Northman, loyal boss Sam Merlotte, brother Jason Stackhouse, perpetual-virgin vampire Jessica, and the flamboyant cook/drug dealer Lafayette Reynolds—will be featured in the comics.

The first six-issue ***True Blood*** series, slated to launch in July, will find Sookie and friends stuck in familiar Merlotte's Bar due to a severe storm. However, the storm is the least of their worries, as a new creature that feeds directly off emotions comes to town.

CSNsider

•As ***CSN*** first told you a few weeks ago, *Gail Simone* is paying another visit to Tranquility in the ***Welcome to Tranquility*** limited series. "The first issue comes out in July," Simone said. Two of the heroes from Tranquility have a child. We learn a lot about that child; there's some exciting, tense, horrible stuff happening here." When asked how far she wanted to take ***Tranquility***, Simone said, "I can take it forever. There's a billion stories to be told. It's a large world with lots of stories and lots of characters." Current plans call for ***Tranquility*** to continue as a series of limited series.

•***Kurt Busiek's Astro City*** is (at long last) launching as an ongoing monthly series later this year.

•Marvel continued to hint at upcoming Marvelman projects after the already-announced book spotlighting the character's publishing history, but Marvel editor *Axel Alonso* said he wasn't able to discuss specific plans yet. "There will be an announcement soon about reprints," Alonso said, adding that "there *will* be Marvelman stuff. We're very excited about this. We want to make sure we have the appropriate game plan as we move forward."

•***Atomic Robo*** writer *Brian Clevinger* is working on an as-yet-unannounced project for Marvel.

•*Geoff Johns* confirmed that ***Brightest Day*** will focus on the twelve characters who were resurrected in ***Blackest Night #8***. "The story is about 'why these twelve?' and what they're going to accomplish—both good and bad," Johns said.

•*James Robinson* said that the Justice League/Justice Society crossover that he and *Mark Bagley* are working on for summer release "will re-establish Jade in the DC Universe. I think we'll make her a really compelling character." Look for a reunion of Kyle Rayner and Jade in ***JLA #47***, Robinson said. "Remember his other girlfriend is on that team, too, so it's going to be weird for him," editor *Eddie Berganza* added.

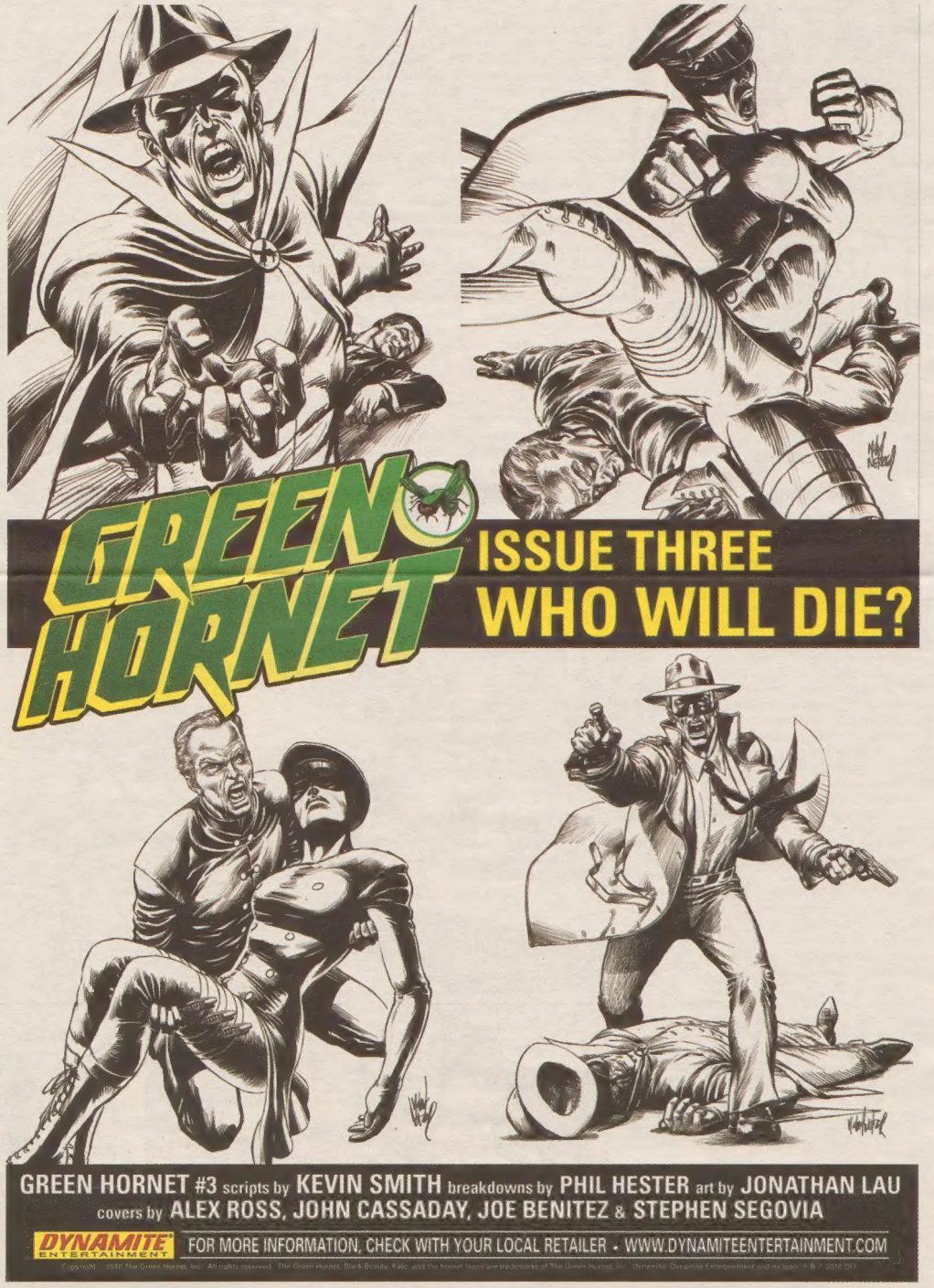
•Wondering about the fate of the various colors of Lantern Corps post-***Blackest Night?*** *Geoff Johns* said that they'd be around for the foreseeable future, and some of them—in particular Larfleeze—will be prominently featured in various projects.

•Is Boston Brand, aka Deadman, just a normal human being now that he's back from the dead? Not quite, according to *Geoff Johns*. "He's got a lot of new abilities. And he's *still* really acrobatic," Johns said, referring to Boston Brand's pre-death career as a circus aerialist.

•Don't look for Ted Kord to make a return—it appears that he's one of those dead characters destined to remain dead for the time being (of course, we heard the same thing about Green Lantern and Flash at one point, too!...).

•Just because ***Blackest Night*** is over, don't assume that all Black Lanterns are gone. "You will see a Black Lantern sooner rather than later," *Geoff Johns* said enigmatically

•While Marvel editor *Axel Alonso* remained secretive about the identities of the characters destined to die in the X-Men event ***Second Coming***, he did


GREEN HORNET
ISSUE THREE
WHO WILL DIE?
GREEN HORNET #3 scripts by KEVIN SMITH breakdowns by PHIL HESTER art by JONATHAN LAU
covers by ALEX ROSS, JOHN CASSADAY, JOE BENITEZ & STEPHEN SEGOVIA
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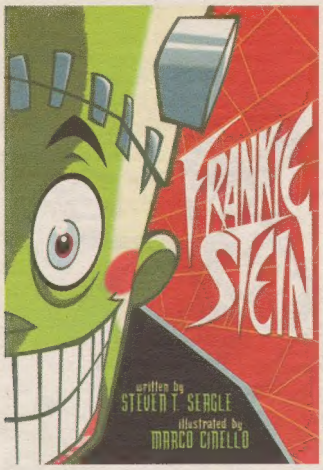
say that "there *are* deaths, and two of them are *huge*. They count, and there won't be a dry eye in the house. At the end of this month, you'll definitely be mourning somebody."



•*Steven T. Seagle* has a pair of projects coming from Image this summer. First up is the all-ages ***Frankie Stein,*** an all-ages storybook illustrated by *Marco Cinello* that focuses on a Frankenstein monster child who has spent his own life isolated from the public; when he finally leaves the castle, it's Halloween night, so he discovers a whole world full of monsters. The second is a two-volume series of collected editions of Seagle's ***The Crusades,*** the Vertigo-published *Kelley Jones*-illustrated series focusing on a medieval knight who somehow reappears on the streets of modern San Francisco.

•DCU senior story editor *Ian Sattler* confirmed that DC is still working on a ***THUNDER Agents*** project, but there's no further news on timelines or creative teams.

•Writer *Greg Rucka* has confirmed that his years-long involvement with DC Comics is coming to an end for the foreseeable future. No creative differences or the like—Rucka has decided to focus on his creator-owned projects like ***Queen and Country,*** as well some as-yet-unnamed projects. This doesn't mean that Batwoman's adventures are coming to an end, though; DC's *Ian Satler* said that they definitely have plans for Batwoman, and that the character will *not* be shelved until Rucka returns. No word yet on who *will* be involved in the next Batwoman arc, however.

•When asked if he might return to ***Superman, Adventure, Action,*** or ***Teen Titans,*** *Geoff Johns* said "not right now," but he added that he'd love to get back to the Titans at some point, hinting that there might be some sort of announcement related to that in the next few weeks.

•Johns also talked a little bit about his ***Batman Earth One*** graphic novel that was announced a couple of months ago. "***Batman: Earth One*** will be out towards the end of the year," Johns said. He explained that the various ***Earth One*** books will relaunch DC's most iconic characters from the very beginning, making it easy for readers to re-experience them from the very beginning. Johns added this tidbit: the Earth One Alfred will be gruffer than the classic version of the character, and will not be the staid, traditional butler who feels most comfortable formally dressed in a suit and tie. He also explained that, "In every other appearance, Batman is really very good at what he does. Our Batman is not"—at least not from the beginning.

•Dark Horse has a pair of ***Serenity/Firefly*** projects in the works, one written by *Patton Oswalt* that focuses on Wash (look for it this summer), the other written by *Joss & Zack Whedon* focusing on Shepherd Book (look for this one in the fall).

•Dark Horse's upcoming *Jim Shooter*-helmed superhero line will not only feature Dr. Solar and Magnus Robot Fighter (both of whom will be featured in Dark Horse's Free Comic Book Day 2010 book), but will also include Turok, Son of Stone.

•Dark Horse has spoken with *Joss Whedon* about continuing the now-cancelled ***Dollhouse*** story in comics form, but editor *Scott Allie* said that Whedon "had his heart broken" by his ***Dollhouse*** TV experiences, so it might be a while before anything happens.

•Thought that IDW's ***Rocketeer Complete Collection Deluxe Edition HC*** was the ultimate version of the late *Dave Stevens'* high-energy Golden Age homage? Think again! IDW is working on ***Dave Stevens' The Rocketeer: Artist Edition HC,*** an oversized volume that will be reproduced in the same size as Stevens' original black and white art. "You will be able to see the blue pencil work," editor *Scott Dunbier* said. No release date was given for this volume, which is sure to be a must-have for *Dave Stevens* fans.

•*Erik Larsen* announced ***Savage Dragon Funnies,*** a twelve-part backup feature that begins in ***Savage Dragon #160.*** The book will feature short Dragon tales by a select group of creators, including *Michel Fiffe, Andrew Dimitt, Kiel West, Delsante and Freire, Ulises Farinas, Chris Sanderson, Conoro Hughes, Kat Roberts, Hyendo Park, Pedro Camargo, Jason Thibodeaux,* and *Joe Keatinge.*

Neal Adams Embarks on an Eagerly-Awaited Odyssey

Late last year, ***CSN*** mentioned the Batman project that comics legend *Neal Adams* was talking about on his website. Now that Batman project is officially on the DC schedule and it has a name: ***Batman: Odyssey,*** and it will be both written and illustrated by Adams.

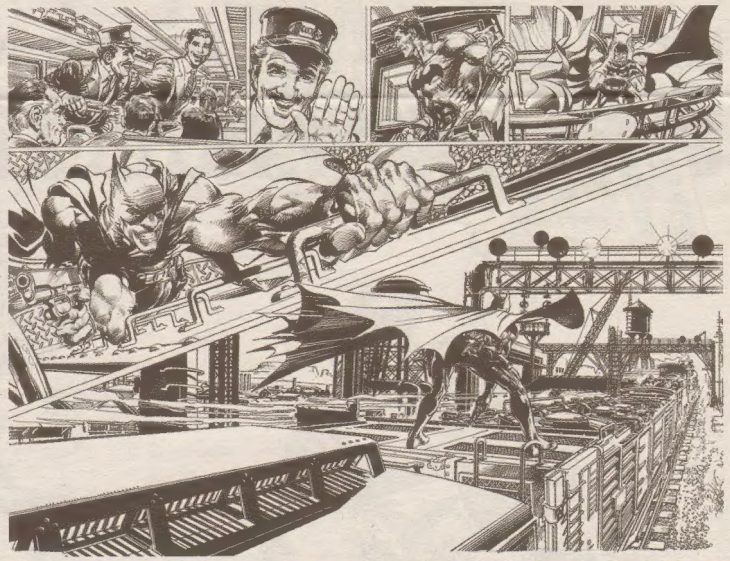
The twelve-part ***Batman: Odyssey,*** which launches in June, reunites Adams with one of the characters with whom he's most closely associated. The *Denny O'Neil/Neal Adams* Batman tales are considered high points of the Dark Knight's Bronze Age career, and they rank alongside Adams' Deadman and Green Lantern/Green Arrow work as the highlights of a stellar career. As DC's *Alex Segura* put it, ***Batman: Odyssey*** "brings Adams back to the character he helped redefine. Adams' energetic, realistic and sweeping style is both timeless and modern, and its an understatement to say his return to The Dark Knight has been something fans have been clamoring for.

"***Odyssey*** finds Batman facing a series of seemingly unrelated challenges, villains and allies, old and new, that push him to his limits as never before. The battles get more intense and, in turn, more deadly, The Dark Knight Detective discovers that there might be an over-arching force behind his troubles. And if this is so, if there is a dark and mysterious matrix being super-imposed over Batman's life… what sort of life-changing voyage must he go on to free himself from this powerful and insidious direction?"

"I have been collecting bits and pieces of Batman's life and time over the years since I was doing Batman regularly," Adams said. "With even this massive series, I haven't been able to shove them all in. But the juiciest and richest morsels are there. Have comic books always been this much fun?"

While Adams will write and pencil the entire twelve-part series, he will ink only the first two issues; after that, he'll be paired with some of the most acclaimed inkers in comics.

Batman: Odyssey #1 is slated for July release.



ASTONISHING SPIDER-MAN/WOLVERINE #1

Jason Aaron (W); Adam Kubert (A)

(Marvel MAR100471 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Spider-Man and Wolverine trek to the edges of the Marvel Universe as they take on such diverse menaces as the Czar, Big Murder, and Doom the Living Planet (?). But who's the major Marvel villain behind it all?

Why Should You Care?

PunisherMax writer *Jason Aaron* joins superstar artist *Adam Kubert* to launch Marvel's expanded foray into ***Astonishing*** territory—continuity-linked titles featuring Marvel's most iconic characters in the sort of stories sure to appeal to hardcore fans and casual readers alike.

AVENGERS #1

Brian Bendis (W); John Romita Jr. (A)

(Marvel MAR100516 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Siege comes to an end, and the Heroic Age begins... and of course, ***The Avengers*** is right at the center of it all. Find out who makes the roster of Marvel's all-star team right here!

Why Should You Care?

In the past few years, the Avengers have passed the X-Men as Marvel's premiere franchise—and this series, which takes the Avengers back to their premiere-member status, is sure to cement ***The Avengers'*** VIP position with Marvel fans!

LOOK-- A STREET CARNIVAL!
LET'S GO! IT'S BETTER THAN CHASING SUPERVILLAINS!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-16
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CSN TOP COMICS: MAY

BATMAN: RETURN OF BRUCE WAYNE #1 (OF 6)

Grant Morrison (W); Chris Sprouse (A)

(DC MAR100178 $3.99)

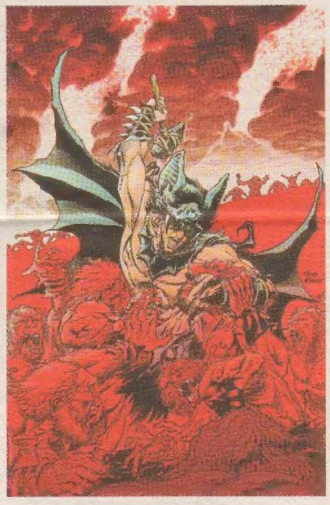
BATMAN: RETURN OF BRUCE WAYNE #2 (OF 6)

Grant Morrison (W); Frazer Irving (A)

(DC MAR100181 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

For a year now, Bruce Wayne has been missing from the DC Universe... and now it's time (no pun intended) for him to return home. Each issue of this six-part series spans a different era, chronicling Bruce Wayne's odyssey to the present.



Why Should You Care?

Readers have known since the end of *Final Crisis* that Bruce Wayne was alive. The heroes of the DCU have known since the end of *Blackest Night* that Bruce Wayne was alive. And now it's time for *Grant Morrison* to deliver the story he's been planning since long before the original Batman's apparent demise.

BIRDS OF PREY #1 (BRIGHTEST DAY)

Gail Simone (W); Ed Benes (A)

(DC MAR100169 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Oracle, Black Canary, the Huntress, and Lady Blackhawk reunite—and they're joined by the newly resurrected Dove as the confront a major Bat-villain and their most twisted adversary ever.

Why Should You Care?

Not only have the Birds of Prey reunited, but so have the creators who made the book a fan-favorite—*Gail Simone* and *Ed Benes*. And with this series' links to the post-*Blackest Night* story cycle *Brightest Day*, a lot of people are about to become Bird-watchers!

BRIGHTEST DAY #1

Geoff Johns & Peter Tomasi (W); Ivan Reis, Fernando Pasarin, & others (A)

(DC MAR100159 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

How will the changes wrought by *Blackest Night* impact the DC Universe? What does *Brightest Day* mean? What was the reason for the resurrection of Hawkman, Aquaman, the Martian Manhunter, and other heroes? The answers will be found in this compelling year-long biweekly series.

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns and *Peter Tomasi*, the duo responsible for *Blackest Night* and its most pivotal tie-ins, present the next book in the compelling reboot of the DCU, continuing the saga of the heroes whose lives were restored for reasons yet unrevealed.

DC UNIVERSE: LEGACIES #1 (OF 10)

Len Wein (W); Joe Kubert, Andy Kubert, & JG Jones (A)

(DC MAR100176 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Witness the development of the DC Universe from the dawn of the Mystery Men to the present day in a ten-part series that begins in the middle of the war years, when a new breed of hero became legends.

Why Should You Care?

Veteran writer *Len Wein* teams with some of DC's best illustrators, including the father-and-son team of *Joe Kubert & Andy Kubert* (whose careers have helped to shape the look of comics for two-thirds of a century), to remind us that comic book history can be every bit as thrilling as a contemporary comics event.

DONG XOAI VIETNAM 1965 HC

Joe Kubert (W/A)

(DC JAN100309 $24.99)

What's the Scoop?

What was supposed to be a simple recon mission into the village of Dong Xoai, Vietnam, becomes a deadly nightmare for a group of American GI's... and now you can see what happened, and why, in this ground-level look at the reality of war.

Why Should You Care?

Comics legend *Joe Kubert* returns to his war comics roots with a compelling tale based on extensive information gathered from the surviving members of the unit who found themselves caught up in the ill-fated battle of Dong Xoai.

GREEN HORNET STRIKES #1

Brett Matthews (W); Ariel Padilla (A)

(Dynamite MAR100847 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

In a corrupt future devastated by a seemingly-unending financial crisis, the rich elite wield incredible power and influence, while the poor struggle to survive. This is the world in which a new Green Hornet launches his career in this third-generation Hornet series.

Why Should You Care?

Dynamite taps *Lone Ranger* maestro *Brett Matthews* to do the honors on the final entry into the *Green Hornet* triumvirate, and he's taking the Hornet concept into a near-future world in which *Frank Miller's* Dark Knight would feel right at home.

GREEN LANTERN #54 (BRIGHTEST DAY)

Geoff Johns (W); Doug Mahnke & Christian Alamy (A)

(DC MAR100163 $2.99)

GREEN LANTERN CORPS #48 (BRIGHTEST DAY)

Tony Bedard (W); Ibraim Roberson (A)

(DC MAR100164 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Blackest Night is over, and Green Lantern and crew have a lot of adjusting to do. Larfleeze has a newfound appreciation of Earth culture, and that means problems for Hal, while Sinestro is busying himself with an investigation of Parallax's disappearance. And of course, the White Lantern is the object of everyone's desires... Meanwhile, the Green Lantern Honor Guard has expanded to include two new members: John Stewart and former Guardian Ganthet.

Why Should You Care?

The end of *Blackest Night* doesn't mean a return to the old status quo for Hal Jordan and his comrades in arms (or is that "comrades in rings"?). So just what is the new normal? That's a question that no one this side of *Geoff Johns* can answer quite yet—but we'll all know soon enough!

HELLBOY IN MEXICO (OR DRUNKEN BLUR) ONE SHOT

Mike Mignola (W); Richard Corben (A)

(Dark Horse MAR100042 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

During the 1950s, a Hellboy trek to Mexico finds him crossing paths with vampire-killing luchadores, zombies, evil turkeys, a bat god... and lots of tequila...

Why Should You Care?

Hellboy creator *Mike Mignola* reunites with comics legend *Richard Corben* (his collaborator on the award-winning ***Hellboy: The Crooked Man***) for a particularly offbeat standalone tale.

I ZOMBIE #1

Chris Roberson (W); Michael Allred (A)

(Vertigo/DC MAR100293 $1.00)

What's the Scoop?

Meet Gwen Dylan, gravedigger and zombie detective. No, she's not a detective who investigates zombies... she's a zombie who's also a detective. To control her zombie nature, she has to eat a human brain once a month—but once she does so, she finds her mind filled with the dead person's thoughts. And in a very unzombie-like bit of

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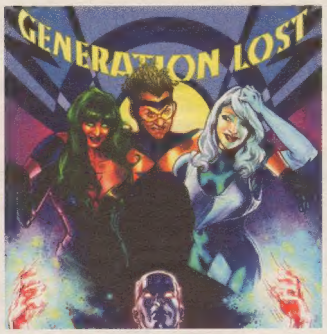
altruism, she feels compelled to fulfill their final requests...

Why Should You Care?

World Fantasy Award finalist *Chris Roberson* teams with fan-favorite illustrator *Michael Allred* for an atypical zombie tale with plenty of thought-provoking twists guaranteed to appeal to Vertigo fans—and with a bargain price of $1 for the first issue, a lot of readers can afford to *become* Vertigo fans!



JUSTICE LEAGUE: GENERATION LOST #1 (BRIGHTEST DAY)

Keith Giffen & Judd Winick (W); Aaron Lopresti (A)

(DC MAR100165 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Someone is targeting the old members of the defunct Justice League International, and it's up to surviving members Booster Gold, Captain Atom, Fire, and Ice to figure out who is being it... but where does Maxwell Lord fit into all this? And what side will the Blue Beetle take?

Why Should You Care?

Keith Giffen returns the old bwah-hah-hah Justice League International in this new biweekly series that casts the misfit heroes in a new light... one that emphasizes heroism over humor. And his writing partner is DC's master of characterization, *Judd Winick*.

LEGION OF SUPER HEROES #1

Paul Levitz (W); Yildiray Cinar (A)

(DC MAR100210 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The 31st Century super-team is back in action in a new series that picks up on threads from *Geoff Johns'* "Superman and the Legion of Super-Heroes" storyline—and it also includes a Green Lantern Corps tie-in! (Oh, and howsabout they throw in the destruction of a major planet for good measure?)

Why Should You Care?

The Legion has seen several relaunches, but this is the first helmed by one of the Legion's most popular writers—*Paul Levitz*, recognized as one of team's finest writers. So where's he been for the past couple of decades? Seems like he was too busy as DC's publisher to take on an ongoing series... but now that he's retired from the former, he's making time for the latter!

MOUSE GUARD: LEGENDS OF THE GUARD #1 (OF 4)

Jeremy Bastian, Alex Sheikman, Ted Naifeh, & David Petersen (W/A)

(Archaia MAR100699 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

In our world, a gathering of mice means trouble. But in the world of ***Mouse Guard***, a gathering of mice at the June Alley Inn leads to a marathon tale-telling competition as each tries to outdo the others. The rules? Each tale must contain one truth, one lie, and must never have been previously told in the tavern.

Why Should You Care?

David Petersen personally invited a select group of creators to pay a visit to his ***Mouse Guard*** milieu, and the result is a fascinating collection of short pieces that add a new dimension to the ***Mouse Guard*** saga.

MYSTERY SOCIETY #1

Steve Niles (W); Fiona Staples (A)

(IDW MAR101009 $3.99)

Steve Niles presents a fast-paced SF-horror-adventure that blends the Thin Man dramas with X-Files' conspiracy plotlines

What's the Scoop?

Nick Hammond and Anastasia Collins are the mystery society, using their skills and assets to investigate strange cases that no routine investigator would ever touch, beginning with a mission that takes them into the heart of Area 51.

Why Should You Care?

Steve Niles moves away from his usual paranormal noir for a fast-paced, high-energy series that reads part ***Thin Man***, part ***X-Files***.

SECRET AVENGERS #1

Ed Brubaker (W); Mike Deodato (A)

(Marvel MAR100566 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Who are the Secret Avengers? What's their mission? Who's in charge? The answers are in here!

Why Should You Care?

Ed Brubaker & Mike Deodato present the second major title in the Avenger franchise—but this one's living up to its name as Marvel is keeping pretty much everything under wraps! Want to know more? You'll have to read the book!

SIEGE #4 (OF 4)

Brian Bendis (W); Olivier Coipel (A)

(Marvel FEB100421 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Dark Reign comes an end in this extra-length finale, paving the way for the Heroic Age. But who lives? Who dies? Who gets what's coming to him? And who will be in charge of the Marvel Universe when it's all over?

Why Should You Care?

Brian Bendis & Olivier Coipel end Marvel's dark days with this high-energy limited series that leads to a major refocus of some of Marvel's highest-profile titles. Want to know how everything gets from Point A to Point B? This is the book!

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-GIRL #1

Tom DeFalco (W); Ron Frenz (A)

(Marvel MAR100506 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Mayday Parker, daughter of Spider-Man returns, complete with familiar members of her MC2 supporting cast—Peter and Mary Jane, April, American Dream, and more, including a back-from-retirement Frank Castle.

Why Should You Care?

Long before the earliest rumblings of Marvel's Heroic Age, *Tom DeFalco* was helming a Heroic Age all his own in this fascinating all-readers-friendly series set in an alternate reality known as MC2. Standalone stories, engaging characters, intriguing twists on the familiar Marvel Universe... what's not to like?!

STARGATE: VALA MAL DORAN #1

Brandon Jerwa (W); Cezar Rezak (A)

(Dynamite MAR100877 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

This series focuses on Vala in her early days, when she was acting as a free agent in the intergalactic underworld, where she assembles her own Ocean's Eleven-style team of freelancers to track down a mysterious sentient plant.

Why Should You Care?

Dynamite's first original foray into the fascinating world of ***Stargate*** features a solo tale of one of the series' sexiest—and most popular—characters.

SUPERMAN: WAR OF THE SUPERMEN #1 (OF 4)

James Robinson & Sterling Gates (W); Aaron Lopresti & Matt Ryan (A)

(DC MAR100199 $2.99)

SUPERMAN: WAR OF THE SUPERMEN #2 (OF 4)

Sterling Gates & James Robinson (W); Jamal Igle & Jon Sibal (A)

(DC MAR100201 $2.99)

SUPERMAN: WAR OF THE SUPERMEN #3 (OF 4)

James Robinson & Sterling Gates (W); Eduardo Pansica (A)

(DC MAR100203 $2.99)

SUPERMAN: WAR OF THE SUPERMEN #4 (OF 4)

Sterling Gates & James Robinson (W); Eddy Barrows (A)

(DC MAR100205 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

General Zod has been waiting for another shot at Earth for years—and with 100,000 supermen on his side, it looks like it's his war to win! On Earth, however, General Lane has an ace up his sleeve

that will level the playing field quite nicely. But what roles will Supergirl and Superboy play in this ultimate Kryptonian confrontation?

Why Should You Care?

This is the story that the Superman books have been building too for over a year now—and it all comes down to a hundred-minute war (that's about a minute per page) that outdoes *24* with its real-time storytelling. One chapter of the Superman saga comes to an end, while another one begins in this fast-paced tale.

ZATANNA #1

Paul Dini (W); Stephane Roux (A)

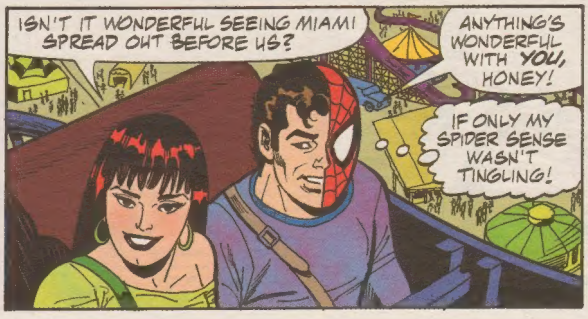
(DC MAR100234 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

At long last, the Mistress of Magic gets her own ongoing series—and her first story arc pits her against the terrifying Brother Night, a crime boss who dominates the criminal underworld with dark magics. As Zatanna is about to learn, it's going to take more than backwards talking to stop him!

Why Should You Care?

Paul Dini finally gets his chance to make Zatanna a star as he launches a long-awaited ongoing series that elevates the lovely magician from supporting character to a Dr. Strange-level star.


ISN'T IT WONDERFUL SEEING MIAMI SPREAD OUT BEFORE US?
ANYTHING'S WONDERFUL WITH YOU, HONEY!
IF ONLY MY SPIDER SENSE WASN'T TINGLING!

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FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ALTER EGO #93

(TwoMorrows MAR101253 $7.95)

Nowadays, fans accept the existence of multiple Earths in the DCU—but back in the early 1960s, when DC first introduced the Earth 1/Earth 2 concept, it was an innovation that reshaped comics. This issue of ***Alter Ego*** offers a look at DC's early 1960s introduction of the Earth 1/Earth 2 concept, along with interviews with DC editor *George Kashdan*, a new cover by *Carmine Infantino*, and more.

Collected Cool: May's Best Reprint Volumes

ARCHIE: THE BEST OF DAN DECARLO HC VOL 1

(IDW MAR101052 $24.99)

IDW offers an appreciative and admiring look of the highlights of *Dan DeCarlo's* Archie career. Today's readers may know him as the artist of the best-selling "Road Not Taken" Archie-gets-married storyline, but he's been illustrating delightful Archie tales for a half-century, as this book demonstrates!

ATOMIC KNIGHTS HC

(DC JAN100295 $39.99)

In a post-apocalyptic United States, Gardner Grayle and his intrepid band of knights ride their oversized-Dalmation steeds as they bring justice to a troubled land. This long-overdue hardcover collects the entire run of Atomic Knights tales from Silver Age issues of ***Strange Adventures***, as created by *John Broome & Murphy Anderson*.

HARVEY COMICS CLASSICS TREASURY TP VOL 1: CASPER

(Dark Horse JAN100137 $14.99)

Casper's not only returning in a new 200-page collection of classic tales from Harvey's glory days, but the stories are offered in full color just as they originally appeared almost a half-century ago!

WEDNESDAY COMICS HC

(DC DEC090221 $49.99)

The most surprisingly different DCU project of 2009 becomes one of the most distinctive collections of 2010. This compilation of DC's 2009 weekly comic (featuring work by *Neil Gaiman, Michael Allred, Brian Azzarello, Kyle Baker, Joe Kubert, Adam Kubert, Brian Stelfreeze, Lee Bermejo*, and others) is published in a lavish 11" x 17.5" format that shows off the art (all of which was designed for oversized presentation). This edition also includes unseen pages starring the Creeper and Plastic Man, as well as sketchbook pages and more bonuses.

Hot Commodities: April's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BATMAN BLACK AND WHITE STATUE BY FRANK QUITELY

(Direct OCT090337 $80.00)

For the first time, DC Direct presents a monochromatic version of a Bat-statue starring someone other than Bruce Wayne. In this case, it's Dick Grayson who's wearing the mantel fot he Bat in this sculpture based on *Frank Quitely's* art from ***Batman Robin.***

DC DYNAMICS BATMAN STATUE

(DC Direct OCT090326 $195.00)

DC's line of upscale statues featuring bases that complement the character's actions continues with the third in the six-statue series. *Tim Bruckner's* sculpture (based on his own original design) depicts Batman emerging from a plume of smoke

POISON IVY 1/6 SCALE COLLECTOR FIGURE

(DC Direct OCT090323 $99.99)

Covered in flora, Poison Ivy appears here in a unique costume. But remove her bustier to reveal her more traditional costume, which laces up her back! This figure features 28 points of articulation, is packaged in a deluxe 4-color window box with a fifth panel and includes a display stand.

GREEN LANTERN LEGACIES STATUE PART 2: KYLE RAYNER

(DC Direct OCT090324 $195.00)

The second in a series of three statues features Kyle Rayner (in his original costume) and an original Manhunter robot. The bases of the statues in this series slide together to form a Lantern-shaped base on which all of the characters stand. Each of the three parts includes a piece of the fourth portion of the statue, which can be easily assembled to form an Alan Scott figure.

Check 'Em Out: Books You Should Be Reading

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN PRESENTS AMERICAN SON #1 (OF 4)

(Marvel MAR100508 $3.99)

Someone's back in action as the American Son... but is it Harry Osborn? That's a question that everyone—including Harry—would like answered!

AMERICAN VAMPIRE #3

(Vertigo/DC MAR100296 $3.99)

Stephen King's first original work for comics continues in the third issue of this compelling, edgy Vertigo series created by *Scott Snyder* with art by *Rafael Albuquerque*.

ATLAS #1

(Marvel MAR100522 $3.99)

The Agents of ATLAS get their own ongoing series—and in the first issue, they have to solve the mystery behind the 3-D Man.

BOONDOCK SAINTS: IN NOMINE PATRIS #1 (OF 2)

(12-Gauge MAR101145 $3.99)

Written by the films' creator-writer-director *Troy Duffy*, this series is conceived as a "deleted and extended sequence" complementing the film, expanding on the characters in ***All Saints Day***, and delving into the origin of the "Original Saint," Il Duce.

BRAM STOKER'S DEATH SHIP #1

(IDW MAR101013 $3.99)

Based on *Bram Stoker's* story-within-a-story as presented in the early chapters of ***Dracula***, this series chronicles the Demeter's voyage to England with the monstrous vampire as a passenger.

DEAN KOONTZ'S FEAR NOTHING GN VOL 1

(Dynamite MAR100880 $14.99)

This graphic novel adapts Dean Koontz's tale of 28-year-old oddball hero Christopher Snow, who can never leave his house in daylight, enter a normally-lit room, or even operate a computer due to a genetic sensitivity to light. He lives in the city of Moonlight Bay, California, along with his hyper-intelligent dog Orson, his best surfing buddy Bobby and his late-night deejay girlfriend Sasha. His parents died under mysterious circumstances and he's now being stalked by the shadowy characters who want Snow to stop trying to find out how they died—or else they'll bump off his remaining loved ones. But how can Chris save the day when he can't even venture out into it?

TITANS: VILLAINS FOR HIRE SPECIAL #1

(DC MAR100174 $4.99)

The Titans take a very different direction in this special by *Eric Wallace & Fabrizio Fiorentino*. Deathstroke and his mercenary team including Cheshire, Tattooed Man and other surprise members burst out of Brightest Day—and for their first mission, they're hired to assassinate the Atom!

UNDELETED SCENES TP

(Top Shelf MAR101140 $15.00)

Love *Jeffrey Brown's* standalone works? Then you're going to be equally taken with this collection of a decade's worth of Brown's shorter works from ***Kramer's Ergot, McSweeney's,*** and other sources.

twitter.com/csnsider

HEY, MAN--YOU CAN'T COME IN HERE!
ZAT SO?
WHO'S GONNA STOP ME?
HLPP!
SNIKK
WHAT'S THAT COMMOTION DOWN THERE?
DUNNO, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE TROUBLE!
STAN LEE / LARRY LIEBER 4-20
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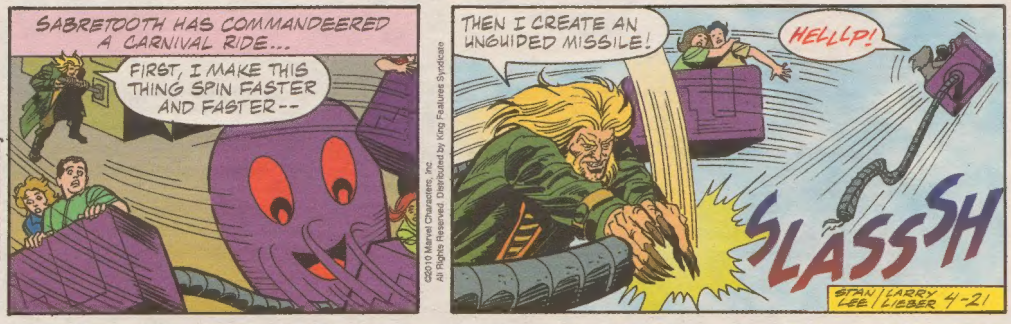
stanzlenz @ aol.com


SABRETOOTH HAS COMMANDEERED A CARNIVAL RIDE...
FIRST, I MAKE THIS THING SPIN FASTER AND FASTER--
THEN I CREATE AN UNGUIDED MISSILE!
HELLP!
SLASSH
STAN / LARRY LEE / LIEBER 4-21
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Colors: Ward Batty

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